



Minutes of the Friends of the Chair Call #6 - Wednesday 26 June - 2pm UTC

Attendance: Canada, Costa Rica, Estonia, the Netherlands, UK, US; Support Unit (SU)

Apologies: Finland, Germany, Ghana, Norway

Minutes:

Housekeeping

- SU provided an update on the action items from the May Friends of the Chair Call
 - All the actions from the last call are complete.
 - SU reminded Members to provide input into the Digital Inclusion statement first draft, if they are yet to do so.
- SU reported back on FOC activities at RightsCon
 - SU thanked Members for joining FOC meetings in Tunisia, and summarised FOC activities at RightsCon, including Strategy and Coordination Meeting; FOC/FOC-AN Roundtable; FOC Open Forum Session and Joint FOC/GNI Reception.
- SU provided an update on FOC outlook for the month ahead:
 - 24 June - 12 July: UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), Geneva, Switzerland
 - 10-11 July: Global Conference for Media Freedom, London, UK
 - SU noted FOC activities at the Conference will be confirmed shortly.
 - UK confirmed FOC Advisory Network (AN) members were invited and that further information would be shared with the Coalition prior to the event.

Action >> SU and UK to provide an update on FOC activities at the Global Conference for Media Freedom.

FOC Chairmanship

- SU sent out the Save the Date for the FO Conference in Accra, 12-14 February 2020
- The conference concept note will be a high-level document following feedback on the process for FO Conference 2018.

Action >> Ghana to circulate Conference Concept Note ahead of July Friends of the Chair Call.

Program of Action 2019

- Diplomatic Coordination
 - SU highlighted key areas for improvement in FOC's diplomatic coordination discussed at RightsCon
 - Identifying POC's for the networks to enable coordination;
 - Linking activities of FOC networks to specific issues or processes, with concrete goals for follow-up items;
 - Involvement of the FOC-AN.
 - New York
 - US reported back on the FOC meeting in New York and highlighted the next steps for coordination around UN's First Committee Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) and Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG).

- Minutes from the meeting were circulated to FOC, and the US is establishing an FOC New York network mailing list.
 - Germany and Ghana expressed interest to host the next meeting of the network in September, to help inform a strategy for engaging with the OEWG's September session.
 - Members thanked the US for their leadership and for organising the briefing.
 - Geneva
 - Estonia provided an update on the statement that was delivered at the 41st Session of the UNHRC on 26 June on behalf of Members of FOC's Geneva Network
 - Estonia thanked the Members and SU for their support in outreach. The statement received positive feedback from capital and Geneva colleagues.
 - 28 Members of the FOC supported the statement, but all Members communicated with Estonia and SU.
 - The Special Rapporteur referred to the FOC's statement in his closing remarks.
 - SU will capture best practice with Estonia for future statements.
 - Members thanked Estonia for their initiative and leadership in delivering the statement.
 - Canada highlighted a side event on Defending Online Civic Space held on Wednesday, 26 June, organised by APC, ARTICLE 19, the Permanent Missions of Canada and the Netherlands, the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law and CIVICUS.
 - Vienna
 - SU is exploring opportunities for FOC engagement related to SDG 16 and cybercrime processes.
 - The US's cyber officer in Vienna had expressed interested in enhancing FOC engagement.
 - Paris
 - n/a
 - Crosscutting
 - US noted strategic review of FOC's 'Network Disruptions' Joint Statement could provide language for coordination on network shutdowns in Sudan.
- Shaping Global Norms
 - SU highlighted key areas for developing good practice for development of statements from meetings at RightsCon
 - Ensuring clear purpose or intent for the statement;
 - Considering a shorter, more focused and concise format;
 - Improving transparency and feedback during development of drafts, particularly by setting up virtual calls where Members can discuss the direction of the statement with the leads;
 - Improving the coordination between FOC and FOC-AN.
 - UK requested that leads/SU include a cover note on the purpose of FOC joint statements and background context/framing for each statement when drafts are circulated for input. The UK noted this would be particularly helpful for when FOC POCs share the statements with other departments in their governments for review.
 - Canada highlighted opportunities for further dissemination of Joint Statement on Defending Civic Space Online:
 - Next steps will be to engage at the Global Conference on Media Freedom.

- Estonia and The Netherlands provided an update on next steps for the Cybersecurity Laws Statement:
 - A discussion on Cybersecurity Laws was held at RightsCon with FOC and FOC-AN Members.
 - FOC-AN expected to submit input into the development of the first draft of the statement by Monday, 1 July.
- Digital Inclusion Statement
 - Friends of the Chair and FOC-AN submitted feedback on first draft.
 - SU to work with Germany and Ghana on next steps, implementing recommendations from Tunis.
- Multistakeholder Engagement
 - US and FOC-AN expressed interest in an enhanced Membership directory that highlights Members' priority issue areas and interests.
 - SU will send a questionnaire to Members for them to fill in their areas of interest and expertise.

Action >> Members to review actions in SCM Minutes, and work with SU on implementing recommended actions from SCM

Action >> SU/leads to ensure requests for Member input into statements are accompanied by cover note with framing on purpose and context of statements.

Action >> SU to send a questionnaire to Members for the enhanced Membership directory.

Action >> Friends to submit any outstanding feedback on first draft of Digital Inclusion statement to Germany and Ghana by COB Tuesday, 2 July.

Action >> FOC Members to highlight opportunities for engagement in Vienna and identify relevant POCs via SU by Friday, 19 July.

Action >> FOC Members to remind New York representatives to share contact details with US.

Advisory Network

- SU provided an update on the FOC/FOC-AN Roundtable discussion from RightsCon

FOC Membership

- SU highlighted takeaways on internal Member engagement from meetings at RightsCon:
 - Members noted that time differences present a challenge for Coalition-wide calls.
 - Activities at diplomatic networks facilitate valuable FOC membership engagement, demonstrated by the briefing in New York and the FOC's statement at UNHRC 41st Session.
- SU provided an update on the enlargement of FOC membership:
 - SU will continue working with FOC Members to identify priorities in internal versus external engagement.

AOB

- The Netherlands expressed interest in a shared document repository for FOC.

Action >> SU to research options for a shared document repository and follow up with Friends of the Chair.